

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2193

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2017

Passport Office in Deoghar and Vijayawada

Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar;Reddy Shri Y. S. Avinash

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from various States to establish passport offices including Deoghar (Jharkhand) and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto; and

(c) the timeline to establish the passport offices at the above places?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) The Government has received requests from time to time from Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assemblies of States, other elected representatives and prominent public figures for opening of Passport Offices and Passport Seva Kendras in various States including at Deoghar in Jharkhand and at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) In response to these requests and in order to extend passport services to our citizens on a larger scale and to ensure wider area coverage, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Department of Posts (DOP) have decided to utilize the Head Post Offices (HPO) in the various States as Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) for delivering passport related services to the citizens of the country. The pilot projects for this joint venture between MEA and DOP was inaugurated on 25 January, 2017 at the Post Offices at Mysuru in Karnataka and at Dahod in Gujarat. The POPSK at these two places have been running successfully since their inauguration. With the successful operationalization of these two pilot projects, the Government has now decided to scale up this programme by opening 64 more POPSKs including at Deoghar in Jharkhand, as per the list attached at Annexure.

(c) Out of the 64 POPSK at Annexure, ten POPSKs at Asansol, Kavaratti, Kota, Muzaffarpur, Pathanamthitta, Raiganj, Rourkela, Salem, Udhampur and Vidisha have since been inaugurated taking the total number of POPSKs as on date to twelve. There is a PSK already existing at Vijayawada. Both MEA and DOP are working closely for the early commencement of passport related services at the remaining 54 POPSK.
